

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07536 160545Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, MASS, JO, LY
SUBJECT: LT GEN BIN SHAKER: THE LIBYAN CONNECTION

1. I SAW BIN SHAKER BRIEFLY ON OCTOBER 12 AND ASKED HIM TO REVIEW FOR ME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA. BIN SHAKER SAID HIS THREE-MAN TEAM IS COMPLETING ITS FINAL REPORTS AND PROVIDED THE SAME INFORMATION WHICH THE KING HAD PASSED ON TO ME--LIBYAN TRAINING IS IN A MESS, THE LIBYANS WANT TO RETURN TO A WESTERN SYSTEM, THEY BADLY NEED HELP FROM SOMEWHERE AND JORDAN BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LEAVE THEM ONLY WITH SOVIET OR CUBAN OPTIONS.

2. BIN SHAKER ALSO SAID THAT QADDHAFI AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RCC DIRECTED THE RECENT CONFRONTATION WITH EGYPT PERSONALLY FROM TOBRUK, THAT THE PRESENT CHIEF OF STAFF IN LIBYA WAS COMPLETELY CUT OUT BUT THAT ALL OF THE ARMY BRANCH CHIEFS (INFANTRY, ARMOR, ENGINEERS) AND ALL OF THE BATTALION COMMANDERS REPORTED TO THE ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE RCC. THE SENIOR OFFICERS (COLONELS) WERE JADED, POORLY

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MOTIVATED AND INEFFICIENT. SOME OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS WERE BETTER IN MOTIVATION AND SKILL. THE LIBYANS HAD GREAT COMMAND AND CONTROL WEAKNESSES AND POOR ORGANIZATION IN THE ARMED FORCES. MAINTENANCE WAS BAD. THE LIBYANS HAD RETREATED IN THE FACE OF EGYPTIAN PRESSURE--THEIR SOLDIERS WILL NOT STAND AND FIGHT.

3. THE NEXT STEP IS FOR BIN SHAKER TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE KING. HE SAID HE CURRENTLY
BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BEST TO SEND A SMALL TEAM
BACK TO LIBYA TO SEE JUST HOW FAR THE LIBYANS
ARE PREPARED TO GO IN REVAMPING THEIR FORCES AND
EXACTLY WHAT COURSES THEY WISH TO HAVE TAUGHT.
AFTER THE JORDANIANS REVIEW THE COURSES REQUIRED
THEY CAN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH JORDANIAN INSTRUCTORS
SHOULD BE SENT. BIN SHAKER IS CONCERNED ABOUT SENDING
ONLY THE BEST MEN HE CAN FIND. HE KNOWS THAT HIS
PEOPLE WILL BE UNDER A MICROSCOPE AND WILL HAVE TO
PRODUCE QUICKLY. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE LIBYANS
WILL TEST THE LOYALTY OF HIS PEOPLE AND HE WILL WANT
TO BE VERY SURE OF THOSE HE SENDS. HE WILL ALSO
RECOMMEND THAT JORDANIAN SCHOOLS AT ALL LEVELS BE
OPENED TO THE TRAINING OF LIBYAN OFFICERS AND MEN
AS APPROPRIATE COURSES CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
THEM IN JORDAN.
PICKERING

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